

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:
  - a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent;~~and~~
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent; and
  - oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.
2. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
3. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
4. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
5. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein the oak dust is toasted, ~~further comprising toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.~~
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising:~~
  - the toasted oak dust is toasted ~~from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;~~ and
  - ~~wherein~~ the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;
  - ~~toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;~~
  - pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;

silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
~~ethynyl~~ ethynyl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent;  
wherein the oak dust is toasted; and  
wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.

9. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 8, wherein:  
the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and  
the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound comprising:  
a methyl vinyl silicone polymer of about 40.7 weight percent;  
a fumed silica filler of about 27.1 weight percent;  
a microsphere agent of about 26.2 weight percent;~~and~~  
a cross-linking agent of about 0.99 weight percent;and  
oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent.
11. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the methyl vinyl  
silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
12. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the microsphere  
agent is soda lime borosilicate.
13. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking  
agent is chloro-platanic acid.
14. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking  
agent is peroxide.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein the  
oak dust is toasted. ~~further comprising toasted oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent.~~
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10, wherein  
~~further comprising:~~  
the toasted oak dust is toasted of about 1.0 weight percent; and  
~~wherein~~ the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 10 further comprising:
- a high vinyl silicone polymer of about 1.3 weight percent;
  - ~~toasted oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent;~~
  - pigment of about 0.25 weight percent;
  - silicon hydride of about 2.3 weight percent;
  - ~~ethynyl~~ ethynyl cyclohexanol of about 0.08 weight percent;
  - wherein the oak dust is toasted; and
  - wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
18. (ORIGINAL) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 17, wherein:
- the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane; and
  - the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
19. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper formed from a synthetic cork compound comprising:
- a methyl vinyl silicone polymer from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a fumed silica filler from about 20 to 60 weight percent;
  - a microsphere agent from about 5 to 50 weight percent; and
  - a cross-linking agent from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent.
20. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane.
21. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
22. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
23. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19, wherein the cross-linking agent is peroxide.
24. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent.

25. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising:  
toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent; and  
wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate.
26. (WITHDRAWN) A stopper according to claim 19 further comprising:  
a high vinyl silicone polymer from about 0.5 to 10 weight percent;  
toasted oak dust from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
pigment from about 0.1 to 5 weight percent;  
silicon hydride from about 0.1 to 25 weight percent;  
ethynl cyclohexanol from about 0.05 to 5 weight percent; and  
wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid.
27. (WITHDRAWN) A synthetic cork compound according to claim 19 further comprising:  
a high vinyl silicone polymer of about 1.3 weight percent;  
toasted oak dust of about 1.0 weight percent;  
pigment of about 0.25 weight percent;  
silicon hydride of about 2.3 weight percent;  
ethynl cyclohexanol of about 0.08 weight percent;  
wherein the cross-linking agent is chloro-platanic acid present in an amount of about  
0.99 weight percent;  
wherein the methyl vinyl silicone polymer is polydimethylvinylsiloxane present in an  
amount of about 40.7 weight percent;  
wherein the fumed silica filler is present in an amount of about 27.1 weight percent;  
and  
wherein the microsphere agent is soda lime borosilicate present in an amount of about  
26.2 weight percent.